

This will provide a tracking program nationwide. It is an appropriate function of the Federal Government to keep tabs on such offenders—and help to arm communities with information that might well prevent future, similar, horrifying crimes. We know that 40 percent of convicted sex offenders will repeat their crimes. We must begin acting on that information.

Mr. President, Senator GRAMM and I are not asking that any money be appropriated for this purpose—the FBI can create such a tracking system with existing resources. And this is how Federal agencies should be spending the taxpayers' money: on protecting them and their children, and making their communities safer, less threatening places to live.

One of the ultimate responsibilities of Government is the protection of its citizens—especially its youngest and most vulnerable. This measure does not seek to impose additional punishment on sex offenders—but it is aimed at providing society at large with an element of self-defense that it does not enjoy now.

TAX DAY

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, Tax Day has come and gone, and I would wager that few outside of Washington, DC, marked its passing because they were so absorbed in the last minute preparation and filing of income tax returns. Most paid scant heed to this congressionally created day of moment, which, in my view, panders irresponsibly to popular aversion to taxation.

It is far more responsible, in my view, to emphasize the positive aspects of public finance. Most Federal taxes flow right back to Americans in benefits and services. Federal taxes here includes both Federal income taxes and Federal payroll or Social Security taxes. Payroll taxes are used to pay Social Security and Medicare benefits to our elderly and disabled. Income taxes are used to fund the operations of our Government which include the provision of student loans for education, maintenance of our national parks and museums, low-interest mortgage loans for first-time home buyers, veterans benefits, unemployment compensation, and our military defense, among other things.

I am advised that Federal entitlements—benefits citizens are entitled to collect if they meet certain demographic or income definition—reach 49 percent of U.S. households, including 39 percent of families with children and 98 percent of the elderly.

Moreover, in my view, Americans are not overtaxed in comparison with other nations. The highest statutory marginal individual income tax rate in the United States, 39.6 percent, is relatively low by international standards. France, Germany, Italy, and Japan have tax rates that are substantially higher, reaching 56.8 percent. By another measure, using total tax receipts

as a percent of gross domestic product [GDP], the United States has an average tax rate of 31.5 percent. The United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Canada, and France are all significantly higher, with several having average tax rates in excess of 40 percent of GDP.

Of course, constant restraint and diligence must be exercised to make sure that waste, fraud, and abuse are avoided at all times. But overall, I believe that our Federal Government has had, and continues to have, a positive impact on the lives of most Americans. In the words of Justice Holmes, "taxes are what we pay for civilized society." In the end, we get what we pay for.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 138

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to present to you the 1995 Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). For 30 years, this Federal agency has given Americans great opportunities to explore and share with each other our country's vibrant and diverse cultural heritage. Its work supports an impressive array of humanities projects.

These projects have mined every corner of our tradition, unearthing all the distinct and different voices, emotions, and ideas that together make up what is a uniquely American culture. In 1995, they ranged from an award-winning television documentary on President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the radio production *Wade in the Water*, to preservation projects that will rescue 750,000 important books from obscurity and archive small community newspapers from every State in the Union. Pandora's Box, a traveling museum exhibit of women and myth in classical Greece, drew thousands of people.

The humanities have long helped Americans bridge differences, learn to appreciate one another, shore up the foundations of our democracy, and

build strong and vital institutions across our country. At a time when our society faces new and profound challenges, when so many Americans feel insecure in the face of change, the presence and accessibility of the humanities in all our lives can be a powerful source of our renewal and our unity as we move forward into the 21st century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 17, 1996.

REPORT ON ALASKA'S MINERAL RESOURCES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 139

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the 1995 Annual Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources, as required by section 1011 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487; 16 U.S.C. 3151). This report contains pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other Federal agencies.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 17, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2337. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for increased taxpayer protections.

H.R. 2501. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of a hydroelectric project in Kentucky, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2630. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Illinois.

H.R. 2695. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of certain hydroelectric projects in the State of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2773. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of 2 hydroelectric projects in North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2816. An act to reinstate the license for, and extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of, a hydroelectric project in Ohio, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2869. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Kentucky.

H.R. 3034. An act to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to extend for two months the authority for promulgating regulations under the Act.

H.R. 3074. An act to amend the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 to provide the President with additional proclamation authority with respect to articles of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone.